

**BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND (BSTF)**  
**Project Summary for Calendar Year 2009**

The Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF) Program was created by the 2005 Montana Legislature. It is designed to aid in the development of good paying jobs for Montana residents and promote long-term stable economic growth in Montana. By statute, 75% of the Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund's earnings will be used to fund Category I: Economic Development projects and 25% of the earnings will be used to fund Category II: Planning Grant projects.

**Category I: Economic Development Projects**

**Category I funds are awarded to local government entities and require the creation of net new full-time jobs that provide wages that meet or exceed the current average weekly wage of the county, excluding benefits. The jobs referenced below meet this threshold.**

**Bresnan Communications, LLC**

Jobs Created: 119

Leveraged Funds: \$1,316,400

BSTF Funds: \$230,000

Matching funds sources:

MDOC WTG Program	\$ 600,000
Bresnan Communications, LLC	\$ 1,316,400

A \$230,000 grant was awarded to the Big Sky Economic Development Authority to assist Bresnan Communications, LLC with funding to reduce the lease costs associated with leasehold improvements made to the new Bresnan facility in Billings, Montana. The award will support the creation of 46 jobs that must pay at least \$17.18 per hour, excluding benefits and the creation of a total of 119 jobs for the entire project.

**Stinger Welding, Inc.**

Jobs Created: 202

Leveraged Funds: \$9,500,068

BSTF Funds: \$529,000

Matching funds sources:

MDOC CDBG-ED	\$ 800,000
MDOC WTG Program	\$ 1,020,000
MBOI	\$ 3,400,068
Lincoln County Port Authority	\$ 3,400,000
USDA Loan Guarantee / Glacier Bank	\$ 2,700,000
Stinger Welding, Inc.	\$ 1,000,000

A \$529,000 grant was awarded to Lincoln County to assist Stinger Welding, Inc. with the purchase of overhead cranes. The award will support the creation of over 71 jobs

that must pay at least \$13.55 per hour, excluding benefits and the creation of a total of 202 jobs for the entire project.

### **Zeox Corporation**

Jobs Created: 24

Leveraged Funds: \$2,840,604

BSTF Funds: \$180,000

Matching funds sources:

MDOC WTG Program	\$ 120,000
------------------	------------

Zeox Corporation	\$ 2,840,604
------------------	--------------

A \$180,000 grant was awarded to Butte-Silver Bow to assist Zeox Corporation with funding to reduce the remaining land purchase obligation to MSE, Inc., and to purchase equipment associated with processing raw zeolite at Zeox Corporation's milling facility in Butte. The award will support the creation of 24 jobs that must pay at least \$16.08 per hour, excluding benefits.

## **Category II: Planning Grants**

**Category II funds are awarded to Certified Regional Development Corporations (CRDCs) or other eligible economic development organizations.**

### **Sonju Industrial's Expansion Plan** **\$21,000**

Grant to Montana West Economic Development to assist with the development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for Sonju Industrial's expansion project in Flathead County.

### **Montana Woodworks International Marketing Plan** **\$ 9,000**

Grant to Lake County Community Development Corporation to assist with the development of an export market research survey and international market entry information through the U.S. Export Assistance Center of Montana as well as a domestic market research report for the value-added pressed-log product line for Montana Woodworks, Inc. in Lincoln County.

### **Custer Trading Post Business Expansion Plan** **\$25,000**

Grant to Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for the Custer Trading Post expansion plan in Crow Agency.

### **Powell County Industrial Park Project** **\$15,500**

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the proposed Industrial Park in Powell County.

### **Missoula Airport Authority Marketing Plan** **\$12,500**

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development of a marketing plan for the new air service related to the Missoula Airport Authority's Federal Small Community Air Service Development (SCASD) Grant.

**Smurfit-Stone Affected Companies Assistance Plan** **\$ 7,500**

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation for assistance to the Montana companies affected by the bankruptcy of Smurfit-Stone Container.

**BLACKHAWK! Manufacturing Montana** **\$26,250**

Grant to Northern Rocky Mountain RC&D to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for a new facility design for BLACKHAWK! Manufacturing Montana, a tactical gear manufacturer in the Gallatin Valley.

**Lewistown Airport Business Park PAR/PER** **\$ 6,000**

Grant to Snowy Mountain Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Architectural and Engineering Report (PAR/PER) for the Lewistown Airport Business Park.

**Sanjel Water PER** **\$12,600**

Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to extend the existing East Valley Water Line to service Sanjel USA in Miles City.

**Algal Bioremediation Feasibility Study** **\$19,500**

Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a study to determine the feasibility of combining an algal bioremediation plan with the Miles City Water Treatment Plant or with a feedlot to develop a commercial product from the algae produced.

**Missoula Expo Center Study** **\$20,000**

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the completion of an Economic Impact Analysis and Feasibility Study regarding the proposed Expo Center in Missoula County.

**WPIRS Revolving Loan Fund Management** **\$60,000**

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the costs associated with administration of the MAEDC's WPIRS Intermediary Revolving Loan Fund for Montana's distressed wood products industry.

**Jocko Valley Arts Strategic Plan** **\$10,500**

Grant to Lake County Community Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a strategic plan to establish the greater Jocko Valley as an arts and cultural destination.

**A&S Diversified PAR** **\$16,150**

Grant to Great Northern Development Corporation to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for modifications to the manufacturing facility of A&S Diversified, Inc. in Poplar to meet the demands of advanced manufacturing.

**Great Bear Restoration Advanced Product Testing** **\$20,000**

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to conduct advanced product testing on the integration of Great Bear Restoration's plant materials into the Biohaven Floating Island technology in Hamilton.

**Montana Food Products, LLC Feasibility Study** **\$21,000**

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to partially fund a feasibility study and business plan development for Montana Food Products, LLC in Lolo.

**Fort Belknap Reservation Broadband Feasibility Study** **\$11,025**

Grant to Bear Paw Development Corporation to assist in funding a study to determine Fort Belknap Reservation's broadband capabilities and deficiencies for an accurate assessment of infrastructure capacity.

**Great Falls Int'l Airport Authority Air Cargo & Intermodal Study** **\$25,000**

Grant to Sweetgrass Development Corporation to conduct a study defining freight flows via air, ground and rail systems in an effort to identify inland port/cargo gateway solutions to integrated carriers in Northern Montana.